Before the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance

In the matter of:

Harris D. Oakes

426 Greystone Drive Piedmont, South Carolina 29673.

File Number 2000-103921

Default Order Revoking Resident Insurance Agent's License

This matter comes before me pursuant to a Letter of Allegation and Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing served, as required within S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-170 (Supp. 2000), by the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance upon Harris D. Oakes by both certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail on January 22, 2001.

That letter informed Oakes of his right to request a public hearing upon the allegations of impropriety contained within the letter against him. The letter further warned that his failure to make a timely, written request would result in my summary revocation of his license to do business as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina. Despite that warning, Oakes has failed to respond to the Department's letter. On February 13, 2001, therefore, counsel for the Department filed an Affidavit of Default, and the entire matter was submitted directly to me for my summary decision based solely on the record.

The letter alleged, and I now find as fact, that the South Carolina Circuit Court of General Sessions, Greenville County, convicted Oakes of violating S.C. Code Ann. § 38-55-540 (Insurance Fraud) in <u>The State v. Harris D. Oakes</u> (Criminal) Docket Number 00-GS-23-5100.

S.C. Code Ann. § 38-43-130 (Supp. 2000) provides: "The director or his designee may revoke or suspend an agent's license after ten day's notice...when it appears that an agent has been convicted of a crime of moral involving moral turpitude, has violated this title or any regulation promulgated by the Department, or has willfully deceived or dealt unjustly with the citizens of this State." Oakes' crime is a violation of the insurance laws of South Carolina.

In accordance with my findings of fact, and considering Oakes's failure to avail himself of his opportunity to be heard, I now conclude, as a matter of law, that Oakes' resident insurance agent license should be revoked.

This administrative disciplinary order is a public record subject to the disclosure requirements of the State of South Carolina's *Freedom of Information Act*, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 30-40-10, *et seq.* (1991 and Supp. 2000). Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit or to deprive any person of any private right of action under the law. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit, in any manner, the criminal jurisdiction of any law enforcement or judicial officer. Nothing contained within this administrative disciplinary order should be construed to limit the statutory duty of the Director of Insurance, exercised either directly or through the

Department of Insurance, to "report to the Attorney General or other appropriate law enforcement officials criminal violations of the law relative to the business of insurance or the provisions of this title which he considers necessary to report." S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-110 (4) (Supp. 2000).

It is therefore ordered that Harris D. Oakes' license to transact business as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina be, and is hereby, revoked, and that no license, issued through the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance is to be issued to him.

It is further ordered that a copy of this order be transmitted to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for distribution to its current member states and to each insurer for which Oakes is currently licensed, through the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance, as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina.

This order takes effect upon the date of my signature below.

Ernst N. Csiszar Director

13 February 2001, at Columbia, South Carolina

Before the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance

In the matter of:

SCDI File Number 2000-103921

Harris D. Oakes,

Affidavit of Default

426 Greystone Drive Piedmont, South Carolina 29673.

Personally appeared before me T. Douglas Concannon, who, being duly sworn, stated that at all times relevant to this Affidavit of Default he was an attorney representing the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance (the Department) in this administrative action. He further stated the following:

The Department served notice on Harris D. Oakes at the address detailed above by a Letter of Allegation and Notice of Opportunity for a Public Hearing that the Department would request the Director of Insurance to summarily revoke his license to act as a resident insurance agent within the State of South Carolina in ten days. The Department served that notice on January 22, 2001, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-170 (Supp. 2000), by "depositing it in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the last known address of the person and registered with the return receipt requested." That letter further notified Oakes of his opportunity, within ten days, to request in writing a public hearing.

The United States Postal Service effected service of the notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail, on or about January 24, 2001. Oakes has made no request for a public hearing or any other response to the notice. The time in which to do so has expired. He is now in default.

T. Douglas Concannon Associate General Counsel

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2001.

Christiline P. Lewis, Notary Public My Commission Expires 11/20/06 South Carolina Department of Insurance Post Office Box 100105 Columbia, South Carolina 29202-3105

Columbia, South Carolina 29202-3105 (803) 737-6132